

LA-VENTURA FUNDING AREA ACTIVITIES

As developed by the DACIP Task Force and based on preliminary studies and surveys in all three IRWM Areas, we propose that the Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program be carried out by grouping Activities into three major Tasks:

- Task 1: **Community Outreach**
 - *Including Education, Facilitation, Engagement in IRWM Efforts, Governance Structure and Enhancement of DAC aspects in IRWM plans*
- Task 2: **Needs Assessment**
- Task 3: **Project Development**
 - *including Technical Assistance, Site Assessments and Construction*

Community Outreach will be an ongoing part of the DACIP program, assuring disadvantaged community involvement at each stage, and leading to multiple desired outcomes including long-term DAC engagement in the IRWM process.

The Activities of **Needs Assessment** and **Project Development** will be phased, so that results of the Assessment will guide how the multiple stages of Development of specific projects will be carried out.

The DACIP Task Force will provide oversight of all Activities throughout the grant period, and ensure that DACs in all three IRWM regions are represented and served appropriately. The DACIP Task Force will issue task orders to consultants to complete Activities on a Funding Area-wide basis or within IRWM Regions as needed.

Task 1 – Community Outreach

DWR Activity Categories:

Community Outreach, Education, Facilitation, Engagement in IRWM Efforts, Governance Structure and Enhancement of DAC aspects in IRWM plans

Task 1 Description:

Community Outreach will be ongoing throughout the grant period, providing multiple touch points with the community, and intersect with all three major Tasks.

Prior to launch of Community Outreach, the DACIP Task Force and consultants will design Outreach and Education approaches and materials that are appropriate to the Funding Area. Design considerations may include –

- when it is appropriate to create a unified, or diversified, approach to Outreach and Education;

- creating approaches and materials that address the unique cultural, physical and linguistic characteristics of DACs in the Funding Area; and
- creating approaches to Outreach and Education that address the unique characteristics of the three IRWM regions.

Community Outreach will be carried out by or with the help of a variety of Community Based Organizations (CBO) or other qualified community representatives. These CBOs and representatives will have strong ties and expertise with the DACs in the Funding Area, and will help build the relationship between the community, their water managers and the IRWM process. CBOs and representatives will be subcontractors, paid to provide outreach services. The DACIP Task Force and consultants will engage and support these CBOs and representatives with whatever training, materials and resources they need to be effective.

Community Outreach will support multiple stages of the DACI Program, and may take the form of “waves” of engagement – for example: reaching a community with Education, then participation in a Needs Assessment, and then Technical Assistance, and other Activities appropriate to a given DAC.

As the early “waves” of engagement unfold, and reveal additional needs and opportunities within given DACs, the DACIP Task Force and consultants can determine the use, approach and design of other activities, including:

- Additional **Education** programs for the community and their water managers
- **Facilitation** to strengthen ties between DACs, water managers and the IRWM regions
- **Engagement in IRWM Efforts, Governance Structure and Enhancement of DAC aspects in IRWM plans**, to increase DAC roles and representation in the IRWM process

Task 1 Desired Outcomes:

- Involve a comprehensive and inclusive base of DAC Community members in the DACI Program
- Increase understanding by community members of water management needs and issues in their neighborhood and watershed
- Assure ongoing roles for DACs in IRWM planning, decision-making and implementation efforts

Task 1 Deliverables:

- Community Outreach Directory of CBOs and other community representatives involved
- Community Outreach, Education and other Activities approach, design and materials
- Community Outreach-related interim and final reporting

Task 2- Needs Assessment

DWR Activity Categories: Needs Assessment

Task 2 Description:

A comprehensive **Needs Assessment** will be conducted across the Funding Area that identifies water infrastructure deficiencies and related community needs. The process will reach out to both community residents and water managers who serve DACs. Gathering information for the Assessment will take the form of public workshops, agency workshops, door-to-door discussions and one-on-one interviews, depending on the characteristics and logistical needs of reaching any given DAC.

Prior to launch of the Needs Assessment, the DACIP Task Force and consultants will design approaches and materials that are appropriate to the Funding Area, including a unified approach to data collection that ultimately serves the DWR DACI Needs Assessment Template.

Design considerations may include –

- ability to discuss the specific water needs of a given DAC study area, including discussion of current and pending projects;
- creating approaches and materials that address the unique cultural, physical and language characteristics of DACs in the Funding Area;
- “translating” technical water issues so they become more personal to community members;
- creating approaches to the Needs Assessment that address the different characteristics and logistics of the three IRWM regions.

To reach residents of local DACs, the Needs Assessment will draw on the collection of CBOs and other qualified community representatives who are involved in **Task 1 Community Outreach**. As these CBOs and representatives will have strong ties to the DACs in the Funding Area, they will be invaluable to host workshops or carry out interviews door-to-door to gather data and feedback. This will serve as another “wave” of engagement with the community, further building relationships between residents, CBOs, water managers and the IRWM process.

CBOs and representatives will be subcontractors, and paid to provide services such as grassroots marketing, translation help, guidance on local issues, workshop venues and logistics that avoid barriers to participation. The DACIP Task Force and consultants will again support these CBOs and representatives with training, materials and resources they need to be effective, including direct facilitation of public workshops.

The Needs Assessment will include workshops and interviews with institutions that provide water service to DACs, including small cities (officials, water departments), water agencies, and mutual water companies. This addresses not only their knowledge of their DAC community needs, but also any challenges they are facing in serving those needs, participating in IRWM, and meeting water quality, water conservation and other regulatory mandates.

The DACIP Task Force will, through its consultants, provide oversight during the Needs Assessment process, and ensure that DACs in all three IRWM regions are represented and served appropriately. The DACIP Task Force will review and approve the design of the Needs Assessment, and the Needs Assessment Report.

Task 2 Desired Outcomes:

- Inform and engage a broad spectrum of the community in a conversation about water management-related community needs, preliminary needs assessment results, and a plan for continued community engagement.
- Remove barriers to community participation that prevent residents to fully respond and give valuable feedback on the water issues in their area.
- Gain a better understanding of water management-related community needs to help direct resources and funding in **Task 3 Project Development**.
- Increase participation in IRWM planning and/or project development activities.

Task 2 Deliverables:

- Needs Assessment Report: data and narrative summary of identified community characteristics and specific community water management issues, and the resources required (technical, educational, managerial, and financial) to address the needs of DACs, EDAs, and underrepresented communities
- Refinement of Needs Assessment metric tools to support decision making in **Task 3 Project Development**
- Collection of required data to complete the DWR DACI Needs Assessment Template
- Needs Assessment-related interim and final reporting to DWR

Task 3 - Project Development

DWR Activity Categories: *Technical Assistance, Site Assessment, Project Development and Construction*

Task 3 Description:

Based on results from the Task 2 Needs Assessment, the DACIP Task Force and consultants will develop appropriate **Technical Assistance** training and support programs for multiple entities that serve Disadvantaged Communities, such as small cities, community-based organization, mutual water companies and other water and land resource managers.

The Needs Assessment results will provide direction for further DAC-specific **Site Assessments**, such as mapping, ground-truthing, and other data activities to better understand local DAC water management needs, and inform projects and programs to address them.

Projects that are identified during the Task 2 Needs Assessment will be evaluated and prioritized through a ranking system so that subsequent **Developed Projects** will provide the greatest possible benefit to the largest number of DACs. Using guidance from the Needs Assessment and ranking system, the DACIP Task Force will ultimately determine how to assign resources to develop and construct projects across the three regions.

The DACIP Task Force and consultants will work with other Project Development and Technical Assistance providers to carry out Task 3 as needed. This effort may also link to the State Water Board Technical Assistance Program where appropriate, through the Council for Watershed Health, CSU Disadvantaged Community Center and other statewide TA providers.

Task 3 Desired Outcomes:

- Technical Assistance: Increased project development, technical, and related skills among DAC water system staff and community.
- Site Assessment: Increased knowledge gained by DAC water system staff and community on water management needs and data for project development.
- Project Development: Strategically prioritized projects, developed and readied for construction and/or funding requests.

Task 3 Deliverables:

- List of projects, plans and programs resulting from Task 2 Needs Assessment
- Ranking criteria for Technical Assistance and Project Development
- Ranked recipients for Technical Assistance
- Ranked projects
- Technical Assistance products
- Site Assessment data and reports
- Referrals to State Water Board TA Program

Estimated Allocation of Funding

Task 1 Community Outreach	\$ 2,800,000
Task 2 Needs Assessment	1,850,000
Task 3 Project Development	4,660,000
Administration 5%	<u>490,000</u>
Total	\$ 9,800,000

Estimated Timetable

Task 1 Community Outreach	Begin following grant approval and contracting Ongoing through completion of Task 3
Task 2 Needs Assessment	Begin following launch of Task 1 Complete within 6-12 months
Task 3 Project Development	Begin following completion of Task 2 Complete within 3 years of grant approval, or sooner

Key Milestones

Task 1 Community Outreach:

- Launch of *Community Outreach, Education and Facilitation*
- Determination and launch of other Activities (*Engagement in IRWM Efforts, Governance Structure and Enhancement of DAC aspects in IRWM plans*)
- Completion and reporting of all Task 1 Activities

Task 2 Needs Assessment

- Launch of *Needs Assessment*
- Completion of *Needs Assessment Report*

Task 3 Project Development:

- Completion of ranking and prioritization
- Completion of *Technical Assistance* and *Site Assessments*
- Completion of *Project Development* or *Construction* activities
- Completion of Final Report